

The Intelligencer

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WELL BEGUN.

The Committee to Revise the State Constitution

ADOPTS A SYSTEMATIC METHOD

Of Performing the Delicate Task Assigned to It.

SEVERAL CHANGES SUGGESTED

In the Fundamental Law Reported by Chairman East, and an invitation extended to all interested to appear with others—it will be no star chamber session, but open to the people—the various sub-committees—amendments proposed will benefit taxpayers—work of the committee.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., April 15.—The special constitutional committee held morning and afternoon sessions today and cleared the decks for immediate action on the actual work of revising the state constitution. To-morrow the work of drafting amendments and the consideration of the will be begun.

To-day ten sub-committees were appointed, dividing the work of revision in conformity with the several subjects embraced in the constitution. Reports were heard from the members who had been obtaining information as to public sentiment, by resolution, invitation was extended to citizens of the state to appear before the committee for the submission of their ideas respecting amendments at the opening of the session.

This morning the rules and order of business were agreed upon and the rules of the house of delegates were adopted, with some changes to meet the needs and requirements of the body as constituted, and the duties it has to perform. Then the resolution was passed for a committee clerk and a sergeant-at-arms, who shall also be door-keeper. By agreement the Democratic members are to have the naming of the committee clerk.

At the meeting in February, Messrs. Hanen, of Marshall; Hanford, of Tucker; Young, of Upshur; and Kenney, of Calhoun, for the four congressional districts respectively, and chairman East for the state at large, were appointed to collect data and ascertain the ideas and wishes of the people respecting the proposed amendments, in each district, as far as practicable, and report their findings to the committee.

Col. East's Report.

The reports were made to-day, Colonel East, the chairman, reporting in substance as follows:

That he had conferred with the leading business and professional men of Marion and Monongalia counties, and incidentally with representative men of the state at large, and found a consensus of public opinion that the constitution needs amendment in some respects. The principal amendments suggested to him which met with most favor were as follows:

First, That the forty-five day limit for a legislative session be removed, and members paid a fixed compensation regardless of length of session, and a limit presented beyond which bills may not be introduced.

Second, Looking to a strict and impartial registration law.

Third, The matter of salaries of officials and public servants be taken out of the constitution and left to the legislature, with the proviso that the salary of no public officer be increased or diminished during his term.

Fourth, Looking to the abolition of the jury system in the state department.

Fifth, The legislature to be prohibited from appropriating money to any charitable or educational institution not under state control.

Sixth, Re-constitution of the judicial supreme court judges to be increased to five, (they are now four in number); no circuit judge to be legislated out of office, but new circuits to be made to equalize the work, and intermediate and criminal courts to be abolished except in counties where imperatively needed.

Seventh, That the agricultural interests pay an undue proportion of taxes and should be relieved either by constitutional or statutory provision.

Eighth, That jurisdiction of justices be curtailed, and appeals from judgment upon the verdicts of juries before them be simplified and made matters of right.

Will be Careful.

The other gentlemen gave verbal reports comprehending practically what Colonel East presented. These various propositions will likely all receive the serious consideration of the committee, as well as others that may be originated through the disposition of the committee seems to be to go slow in making changes; adopt no amendments but what appear strongly demanded, and, in short, to pursue a very cautious and conservative policy.

At the afternoon session, Chairman East announced the various standing sub-committees. The first named gentleman will be chairman of each respective committee, as follows:

State and bill of rights—Messrs. Hanford, Farr, Curtis, Hunt and Hyde.

Elections and officers—Messrs. Hanen, Toler, Darst and Baker.

The legislature—Messrs. Whitaker, Mansfield, Toler and Stephens.

Executive department—Messrs. Whitaker, Glover, Stephens, Harlow and Darst.

Judiciary—Messrs. Farr, Young, Hunt, Curtis, Hanford, Mansfield and Kenney.

County organization, Taxation and finance—Messrs. Hanen, Whitaker, Glover, Hyde and Baker.

Corporations and banks—Messrs. Mansfield, Young, Toler, Dotson and Hanen.

Education—Messrs. Hunt, Curtis, Kenney, Baker and Hanen.

Railways—Messrs. Toler, Darst, Dotson and Stephens.

Land titles, Curtis, Harlow, Hanford, Farr and Hyde.

Public invited to help.

The committee assignments are generally regarded as excellent with each man in the right place. A number of petitions from the advocates of woman suffrage sent to Mr. Hanen were referred by him to the committee. On motion of Senator Young, the following resolution was adopted under suspension of rules:

"That all amendments proposed to the constitution not originating in the special committees be offered in open session and referred to the proper sub-committee."

"That an invitation resolution be offered by Mr. Mansfield, and adopted unanimously under suspension of rules. It reads:

"That this committee do hereby in-

vite before them for hearing representatives of the various interests of the state, in order that the committee may be advised touching the proposals in which the constitution of the state is objectionable to any such interests, and for the purpose of having submitted to the committee for their consideration, such amendments to the constitution as the interests and welfare of the state may require."

POSTOFFICE PLUMS.

Congressman Dorr Decides on Nearly All in His District—Parkersburg Appointment Not Decided On.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Congressman Dorr has decided upon his recommendations for postoffice appointments in all except a few cases. Four of the exceptions are of offices of the higher grade, the others of minor importance.

The four principal offices omitted are Charleston, Bramwell, Lewisburg and Montgomery. The commission of the present incumbents in these will expire as follows: Charleston, October 14; Bramwell, May 24; Lewisburg, October 24, and Montgomery at the close of whatever term it may be decided to permit, the office having become presidential February 3, 1898, and the last commission dated from about that time. It is to be decided that the present appointee is to hold the office for four years from that date, there will of course be no change until 1902, but if only for the full term from the date of the original appointment under President Cleveland, it will come much earlier.

The changes already decided by Mr. Dorr to be made as soon as the commission of each incumbent shall expire, or in case of prior vacancy from other cause, are as follows:

Academy, Will Burns; Addison, A. M. Payne; Alderson, J. E. Shields; Allen, A. J. Gladwell; Ansted, R. Koonis; Athens, R. Q. Meador; Beckley, G. W. Cook; Bluefield, B. Prince; Newtown, S. H. Campbell; Buckhannon, E. W. Martin; Breedon, J. M. McComas; Falling Springs, W. P. McKeever; Fayetteville, J. F. White; Frankford, C. H. Hanna; Gauley Bridge, William McVey; Greenback, George E. Cooper; Greentown, L. N. Bass; Harlow, W. H. Cline; Hackers, J. W. W. Duke; Hinton, D. P. Wickline; Kanawha Head, A. Curry; Kessler's Cross Lanes, W. J. G. Malcomb; Lane's Bottoms, C. A. Drodgy; Lewistown, M. P. Malcomb; Lindale, C. E. Copeland; Logan, B. O. Holland; Lockout, J. W. Boone; Lorens, P. E. Lorens; Lowell, W. H. Copeland; Mailden, H. Ruffner; Marlinton, W. K. Tyree; Meadow Creek, B. F. Hall; Mt. Carbon, John Holmes; Matewan, Geo. Bonzo; Madison, E. L. Mitchell; New London, C. W. Burner; Nolan, A. R. Hatfield; Oakvale, E. E. Reed; Oceana, U. G. Cook; Peterstown, H. H. Ballard; Pickaway, W. Shirley; Princeton, J. C. Hughes; Queens, Edwin Asper; Rock Cave, E. Knabenshue; Roncove, R. S. Lovelace; Sago, William Burner; Sand Run, J. Ney; Selbyville, P. S. Crites; Sellar, John Howard; Sissonville, F. H. Statts; Spring Hill, A. R. Shepherd; Spruce, John McCue; Stillman, John Wilson; Swamp Run, J. E. Strader; Trout, Miss S. A. McMillan; Union, Shelton Clark; Walcott, C. C. Porterfield; Welch, R. K. Smith; Williamsburg, J. G. Kessler; Winona, J. D. Campbell; Williamson, B. Randolph Bias.

The commission of the Parkersburg postmaster, in the Fourth district, will expire in about fifteen months. Representative Miller has not announced his choice of a successor and will not soon. He does not deem it necessary to decide so long in advance of the appointment.

William H. Bayly, of Pennsylvania, was to-day appointed chief clerk of the post office bureau, vice J. M. McCoy, of Fairmont, West Virginia. Mr. McCoy was retained in the office as an examiner at the annual salary of \$1,800.

Edward I. Renicke, chief clerk of the state department, was to-day asked for his resignation, and it was at once tendered. Mr. Renicke formerly resided in West Virginia. Many of his relatives are citizens of the Kanawha valley. His successor, H. W. Michael, a friend of Senator Thurston's, of Nebraska, will take charge May 14.

W. H. Westfall has been appointed postmaster at Washburn, Ritchie county, vice J. H. Maddox, resigned.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

The Uncompromising Amendment to Indian Bill Passes—Mr. Vest on Sectionalism.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The senate spent to-day considering the Indian appropriation bill, but did not complete it. Early in the session, the proceedings were made executive and when the doors were opened again to the public the Indian bill came up.

The pending question was on the compromise amendment opening the Uncompromising Indian reservation in Utah to public entry. Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, withdrew the point of order he had made and on a yeas and nays vote the amendment was agreed to, 33-12.

The amendment is as follows:

"That the general lands of the Uncompromising Indian reservation of Utah are hereby declared open to public entry under the mineral land laws of the United States, and no person shall be allowed to make more than one claim on lands containing goldstone. And on and after January 1, 1898, all of said reservation allotted to Indians shall be open to public entry under the land laws of the United States."

Mr. Vest, of Missouri, spoke in criticism of the provision of the bill abolishing sectarian Indian schools. He knew, he said that what he said would subject him to bitter criticism. He was brought up a Protestant and had no connection with the Roman Catholic church, but he had no sympathy with that cowardly and ignorant sentiment that any religious denomination could menace our liberties. He had been reared to believe the Jesuits were opposed to republican institutions. But he had travelled through the Indian country, visited the schools and had found them under the supervision of the Jesuits. Broken down preachers and defunct politicians were sent out to the western country to teach the Indian children. He had found, he said, that the only Indian schools accomplishing any good were those conducted by the Jesuits. The ceremonial of the Catholic church seemed to appeal to the Indians.

I would infinitely rather see them Catholics than savages. I do not belong to that sect who would rather see an Indian damned than see him in the Catholic church.

Mr. Vest said he would make no effort to oppose the provision of the bill, but would content himself with this protest.

The Indian bill was not completed when at 5 o'clock, the senate adjourned to Monday.

Another R. & O. Change.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 15.—The News to-day says that J. M. Chesbrough, general passenger agent of the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern railroad will retire about May 1. Mr. Chesbrough will probably be succeeded by W. H. Bue-narke, formerly traffic manager of the Chicago & Great Western, who has been offered the place. Mr. Chesbrough will probably return to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

GREAT ARMIES

On the Frontier Between Thessaly and Macedonia.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION MEN

In the Aggregate on Both Sides Already in the Field.

AWAITING ORDERS TO STRIKE.

Genuine War Seems Inevitable—Report That Greek Irregulars Were Driven from Macedonia Untrue—They Hold Their Position, and Other Detachments are Making Inroads—Another Raid and the Commander of the Sultan's Army will be Ordered to Invade Greece—A Graphic Description of the Situation.

LAHISSA, April 15.—There is no truth in the Turkish reports that the Greek irregulars have been driven out of Macedonia. It is true that a few of the irregulars who formed part of the expeditionary force have returned into Greece territory, but these are men who for some reason have been unable to keep up with the main body of the Greeks, and consequently, they have retreated across the frontier.

The main body of the irregulars is continuing its successful operations against the Turks with the view of cutting the Turkish lines of communication, getting in the rear of the Turks and raising the Macedonia against the rule of the sultan.

The report of the capture of Kipour, north of Balino, by the Greeks, is confirmed and in addition, the main forces of the irregulars of the expeditionary force have advanced as far as Pigavitsa, where there is an important bridge across a mountain torrent. From that point, Chief Davellis, who is directing the operations, has sent a detachment, consisting of the Italians under Col. Cipriani, the well known socialist leader, to the left of Pigavitsa with instructions to attack and capture Zioflov, a small town occupying an important strategic position. The Italians accomplished their task in due time and with considerable loss. They are now holding Zioflov and placing it in a position to withstand an attack from the Turks.

Simultaneously with ordering the movement against Zioflov, Chief Davellis sent another column of irregulars to the right, from Digaxitza under orders to invest and capture Stovon, another town occupying a strategic position of importance. This movement was also successfully carried out. The Greeks killing seven Turks and capturing five Turkish prisoners during the assault, which was brilliantly conducted and brought to an end by the blowing up of the Turkish block house with dynamite.

Holding Their Position.

After the capture of Zioflov the Greek irregular force operating in that direction continued its advance so far as Kritides, Plais and Kourduzi. The Greeks have been instructed to hold the latter place at all costs, as it commands the right approach to Grevena, which is held by a strong Turkish force. Infantry, cavalry and artillery, and which is the objective point of the Greek expedition.

At Kritides, Plais and Kourduzi, heavy fighting occurred between the Greeks and Turks before the places mentioned were captured; but the invading irregulars of Greece proved themselves more than a match for the trained Turkish troops and drove the latter before them from place to place.

Another column of Greek irregulars started for Macedonia from Zarkos, half way between Larissa and Trikala. Shortly after crossing the frontier, the Greeks were confronted by strong forces of Turkish regular troops, stationed in well defended positions in the villages of Anakoutra and Kanaokura. Sharp fighting followed on both places, but in the stubborn defense of the Turks, the Greeks carried both villages by assault, the Turks retreating from Cleuthokari. This route into Greek territory is being placed in a state of defence, and is now regarded as being safe, the nature of the country making it all but impossible for a Turkish force to most in the face of the opposition of the irregulars and cut the line of communication between the Greek forces at Larissa and Trikala which is believed to have been the plan of the Turkish commanders. The Macedon frontier, opposite Zarkos, extends U shape, into Greek territory, having the Greek positions of Tyrnovo and Larissa on its left, and Kalabaka and Trikala on its right. This forms a sort of entering wedge through the middle of the Greek forces, by way of the Macedon villages just captured by the Greek irregulars and Zarkos, in Thessaly, from which point the expedition started into Macedonia. It will, therefore, be seen that the Greeks have achieved another success in occupying strategic positions, by means of the irregulars within Turkish territory before war has formally been declared.

The Greek irregulars now hold all of the four roads leading from the Thessalian frontier in the direction of Grevena, which may be looked upon as the Turkish center.

Another feature of the operations which looks favorable to the Greeks is in the fact that, according to reports received here from the leaders of the irregular forces, at least 1,000 mountaineers of the Greek regulars, infantry, cavalry and artillery, have been ordered to join the irregulars and are deserting from the Turkish forces near Mount Olympus, are escaping into Thessaly and are joining the Greek forces.

Well Planned Campaign.

The whole campaign was well conceived and has been executed with skill.

Mrs. Ommiston Chant, the English social reformer and the six trained field nurses who were said to be on their way to Crete, have arrived at Athens and it is stated will reach this town, in company with the princesses of the royal family of Greece to-morrow.

On arriving here, Mrs. Chant, the English nurses, (who came under the auspices of the Red Cross society) and the princesses will be attached to the hospital corps.

The roads in Thessaly are in excellent condition for military operations, but on the Turkish side of the frontier, the transportation of war material and in the mounting of guns in commanding positions.

The whole frontier presents a warlike appearance. Zarkos is held by a strong force of Greek regulars, infantry, cavalry and artillery, and forms the centre of a first line of defence which includes all the villages in that vicinity. Until recently the Turks had the best position on the frontier, their well built, strongly defended and admirably placed block houses being in plain view from the Greek lines. The irregulars, however, have made a decided change in the situation.

In the rear of the Turkish first line of defense it should be remembered, is rough, mountainous country, difficult to traverse even in time of peace, while in the rear of the Greek first line of defence, are rich plains affording no shelter for troops retreating the advance of a powerful invading force. The weakest parts of the frontier are east of Darnai, to the gulf of Salonika and in the vicinity of Arta.

Two Big Armies.

At Trikala there is another Greek army corps numbering about 6,000 men. In all, the Greeks have about 80,000 regulars and some 20,000 irregulars on the frontier; but they count a great deal on reinforcements to their armies through ridings in Epirus, Albania and Macedonia.

The Turks, on the other hand, have about 150,000 good, well equipped troops in line.

At Monastir, flying columns have been formed to watch the Serbian frontier and all the supplies possible are being pushed forward to the three Turkish divisions at Ellassona, Grevena, and Janina. The Turks are weak in cavalry, having only about 8,000 mounted men on the frontier. They are, however, very strong in artillery and infantry. The transport corps is well organized, field telegrams have been laid between all important points, artesian wells have been bored at Ellassona and the broken bridges in Macedonia have been repaired as much as possible.

The Turkish forces at Salonika have constructed a line of redoubts around the gulf and down the Aegean coast to Katerina. Krupp and Armstrong guns have been mounted behind these defenses and a line of thirty torpedoes has been laid across the bay from Cape Kara.

The discipline of the Turkish troops is beyond praise. The Greeks, however, are not in anything like the state of efficiency of the Turks, although they may be war-like enthusiasts.

The river Salambria (Peneus) along the northern part of Thessaly is likely, if the Turks invade Greece, to be the scene of some good fighting. All the bridges have been mined and the fords and shallow places are being looked after. At Kont Dochero the bridge was swept away by floods some time ago and has been replaced by a military bridge, consisting of eleven pontoons picketed at both ends.

Every strategic point is held by troops, soldiers are to be seen everywhere, all the horses and cattle have been requisitioned for the use of the army and the drilling of recruits lasts from daylight until dusk.

Cavalry patrols cover all the frontier; but, the Greeks, and the Christian peasants on the other side of the frontier, have no money or skill could organize, and the Greek commanders are kept well informed of all that is going on across the frontier.

The Greeks are depending greatly for mountain work on the Euzoni, or armed mountaineers of Greece, whose strength, skill and endurance are well known.

The inhabitants of the villages of this vicinity are flocking into town with their belongings, fearing the outbreak of war.

TURKISH CABINET

Decides to Invade Greece if Another Frontier Incident Occurs.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 15.—For three days past the ministerial council has been in session at the Yildiz kiosk. According to one report the ministers have failed to arrive at any decision, but another account says the council has agreed upon a plan of campaign in the event of an outbreak of hostilities between Greece and Turkey, and that the ministers also decided that if a fresh frontier incident occurs, Edhem Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief, is to assume the offensive.

Emperor of Austria Loses Patience.

VIENNA, April 15.—It is said here to-night on reliable authority, that Emperor Nicholas has declared that nothing now remains but to abandon Turkey and Greece to their fate and leave them to measure strength with the majesty of Turkey now declared war, it would be exclusively due to the provocation offered by Greece.

Greece would be regarded in Austrian official circles as the actual assailant.

Only Semi-Official.

ATHENS, April 15.—In the chamber of deputies to-day the premier, M. Deliyannis, replying to a question on the subject, said that merely semi-official negotiations had been commenced between Turkey and Greece on the subject of Crete. He denied that any power attempted to prevent a direct agreement reached between the two countries.

Weyer's Latest.

He Orders the Destruction of All Houses in the Cultivated Zone.

HAVANA, April 15.—The captain general has ordered the demolition of all houses inside the cultivation zone. This is on the theory that the peasants will remain at night in the block houses and remove their families to the towns. In this way, says General Weyer, the regulars will not be exposed to the risk, in case of insurgent aggression, of shooting women and children.

There have been skirmishes at Placetas, Sagua, Ciego Avila and Grande Minas, in which, according to the official reports, the insurgents lost eighteen killed. More than sixty huts have been destroyed in the districts named.

SANDOVAL'S MISSION

To this Country Said to be to Obtain Evidence Against the Cuban Junta.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 15.—A private meeting of Cubans and Cuban sympathizers was held in this city to-night, at which it was decided to take steps to frustrate what the Cubans claim is the real object of Major Juno Sandoval's visit to this city. This is said to be the arrest of no less persons than the members of the Cuban junta in this country. It has been stated that Major Sandoval came to Philadelphia to purchase munitions of war to be shipped in the regular way to General Weyer in Cuba.

Leading Cubans, however, assert that it is to gather information that will culminate in the arrest of General Estrada Palma, at New York, and General Querales in the regular way to General Weyer in Cuba.

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